UGC VISIT

No immediate hope of the restoration of the quinquennial system of university finance was held out by the University Grants Committee (UGC) during its visit to the University of Sussex on November 12. But universities should look ahead as if a new quinquennium was to start in 1977, the UGC thought. A request will soon be made to Sussex for a new quinquennial submission.

Sir Frederick Dainton, Chairman of the UGC, told the University that the UGC was seeking the restoration of the quinquennial system, with real money, but the Government was very reluctant to give money without full compensation for inflation because that was held to fuel inflation.

The UGC remained committed to a system of financing for fixed five-year periods, which forced a university periodically to examine its activities. It did not favour a 'rolling' quinquennium.

The UGC's all-day visit to the University was part of its five-year cycle of visits to all universities in the country, acquainting itself, collectively and at first hand, with individual universities' policies and problems.

While at Sussex, the 17 members of the UGC party met groups of staff, students and University officials.

They had discussions with the Vice-Chancellor and senior officers, members of the University concerned with teaching and research, academic support services, and community services. The final meeting of the day was with members of the University Council.

One of the main conclusions to be drawn from the visit is that the recurrent grant for 1976-77 is likely to be less in real terms than that for 1975-76.

The reduction in recurrent grants to universities for 1974-75 was eight per cent in real terms on those originally announced, but was only three per cent per student because numbers were lower than those on which the original grants had been based.

At Sussex it seems reasonable to expect a surplus of about £300,000 on income against expenditure in the present year, if the current lower rate of inflation is maintained.

The UGC told the University that it expects the Treasury to take these figures into account when fixing the 1976-77 grant to the UGC. It also expects that the university sector will have to bear part of the cuts in public expenditure for that year, but neither the amount nor the timing of the decision is yet known.

No indication was given during the visit of when the Committee might consider building proposals for Arts Stage V and Biological Sciences Stage III. New capital monies available to the UGC are minuscule in relation to need, and growth in student numbers must be sought by the maximum utilization of existing buildings.

With Sussex's proposed target of 5,500 students in 1981-82 dependent on additional teaching and residential accommodation, the UGC has therefore asked the University to think of a lower target, which is likely to be under 5,000.

The UGC seems likely to continue its policy of 'equality' in allocating postgraduate numbers and the research funding element. Although the UGC recognises the University's very high commitment to research, with its large proportions of graduate students and of income from research grants and contracts, it is unlikely to increase the University's block grant.

In its discussion of academic activities the UGC said they were particularly impressed by the down-to-earth approach to language teaching. They hoped that the University would go ahead with proposals for the development of European Studies.

The development of medical education at Sussex was also continued in column 3...
MEDICAL SCHOOL ? 63

years later ...

Cynical observers of the University's current proposals for a medical school at Brighton will be pleased by the following demonstration that there is nothing new under the sun:

February 1912: an interim report of sub-committees of the Committee to promote a University College of Sussex proposed that medicine should be among the subjects for which provision was made, the others being arts, science, agriculture, engineering, pedagogy and law — though medicine and law should be added only after the others were established.

1914: at the Brighton Municipal Technical College in Richmond Terrace (whose incorporation into the proposed University College had been suggested) were a few full-time students taking a first medical course.

January 1947: in proposals by the Brighton Education Committee to the University Grants Committee for a University College based on the Technical College, faculties of medicine and law were included, though again for addition after faculties of arts, science, pharmacy, engineering, architecture and building, commerce and education and social studies.

October 1948: the Brighton draft Scheme of Further Education submitted to the Minister of Education proposed that, separate from the Technical College, a University of Sussex should be built on the Stannary Estate: "Initially there should be faculties of arts, science (including pharmacy), engineering, economics, social sciences, and education (with an Institute of Education). It is hoped that in time other faculties will be established in law, medicine and theology, encouragement to the proposals having been given by local professional opinion.

From: Education Committee for the County Borough of Brighton, 'University College of Sussex. Memorandum by the Director of Education.' (February 1956).

John Farrant

IN BRIEF

TOMORROW'S WORLD

The BBC TV programme "Tomorrow's World" is looking for suitable material. The Bulletin understands:

In addition, BBC is asking for information on "significant or unusual research projects, special exhibitions or conferences planned for the future, and any other information" suitable for a new weekly topical magazine programme starting in the New Year.

Please send details of anything which falls into the above categories to the Information Office.

THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD

There is to be a day of theological discussion with John Austin Baker, Canon of Westminster, on Saturday, November 29.

The meeting will be held at the Chaplaincy Centre, 12, Hanover Crescent, Brighton. Lunch and tea will be available.

Further details from Austin Smith, Room 1, Meeting House (09-412 or 09-414) or at the Centre (Tel: Brighton 682355).

WINTER GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Vice-Chancellor will preside at the University's Winter Graduation Ceremony in the Gardner Arts Centre on Wednesday, December 3.

More than 350 degrees are to be conferred at the ceremony which starts at 10.15am. A buffet lunch for graduates and their guests will be held in the Old Refectory, Palmer House, immediately after the ceremony.

The University Bookshop urges all course tutors who have not already done so to submit as quickly as possible lists of the most important books which they expect their students to buy next term.

The end of the Autumn Term is a busy period and there are only 14 working days during the Christmas break, which leaves little time for ordering, unpacking and checking stock in time for the start of the Spring Term.

Although all associate members of the Students' Union are also members of the Union Sports Federation, they are asked to note that this does not necessarily entitle them to the facilities offered by the University Sport Service.

FROM ILLINOIS TO SUSSEX IN FIVE MINUTES

The other day the University Librarian read a paper and led the discussion of it by 85 participants in an Institute at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science in Urbana. Five minutes later, he joined the audience for the Barlow lecture in the University of Sussex Library.

The trick involved two familiar wonders of media technology. Prevented by pressures of University business from honouring an accepted invitation to speak at Urbana, Peter Lewis sent a tape recording of his paper. This was played back to the audience participants at 11.30 Central Standard Time; one hour later (5.30 Greenwich Mean Time), a telephone line with amplification at the American end linked him "live" to the discussion of his paper in Urbana.

"The session was stimulating because the audience was clear," he said later, "justifying the faith of Illinois in the Bell Telephone Company rather than mine in the G.P.O."

It was the first time that Illinois has tried this method of internationalising its postgraduate institutes. They say they might use it for all similar occasions hereafter: it was effective, and cheaper than paying for air-fares.

Marathon Encounter Weekend

There are two places available on a Marathon Encounter Weekend beginning 09.30 hours Saturday November 29 and finishing p.m. Sunday November 30.

A number of weekends have been arranged for next term including workshops on Bio-energetics, Rolfig, and Marriage Groups.

Further details from Geoff Whitfield Room 2 Meeting House (09-413).

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX LIBRARY

PRIVATE PRESS BOOKS

Illustrated lecture by William Ridler November 27 1876 at 7.45pm in the Library.

Mr. William Ridler is a lifelong collector of private press books, especialising in press from William Morris'sConcern. His book, 'British modern presses: a checklist of unrecorded items,' is about to appear in a second enlarged edition from Boston. This work is becoming a standard reference.

On November 27 he will talk about his special interests and a selection of his books will be on display in the lecture room.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

There has been widespread discussion lately about the need for economising on university fuel bills, which among other effects seems to have brought an early return to the age conditions on this part of the campus.

The most logical solution to this problem would seem to be to shift the long vacation from mid-summer to mid-winter; this would also have obvious advantages for exchange arrangements with Australian academies.

The only question which the prospect raises is whether the switch should be made by introducing an extra long vacation starting next month, or by skipping the break next summer - perhaps your readers would like to comment on their preferences?

Yours sincerely,
Dr. John Griffen, Science Policy Research Unit.

THE WUNDERHORN YEARS

Professor Donald Mitchell, Professor of Music at the University of Sussex, has just published his second book on Gustav Mahler, the composer.

Gustav Mahler: The Wunderhorn Years

picks up the musical story where it was left in the first volume of his Mahler study published in 1958.

Professor Mitchell explores the extraordinary and often eccentric chronology of the First, Second and Third Symphonies' composition - an often minute exploration which reveals the interpenetration of song and symphony in this period of Mahler's art and emphasizes the significance for these works of imagery drawn from the "Wunderhorn" anthology.

The final section of the book includes a study of Mahler's Fourth Symphony - the final and perhaps most perfect flowering of Mahler's "Wunderhorn" symphonies.

Professor Mitchell is currently working on the Mahler entry for the new Grove, on planning the third volume of the present study and on detailed investigations of Expressionism and Impressionism in music.

Gustav Mahler: The Wunderhorn Years is published by Faber, price £15.

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

Applications have been invited by Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, for the Susette Taylor Travelling Fellowship for 1976-77.

The Fellowship is open to women graduates of any University who are already established scholars in their field, although preference will be given to a member of Oxford University.

The Fellowship, which is worth up to £400, is awarded for the advancement of independent research in any branch of study, and may be held concurrently with a teaching or research appointment. Its purpose is to enable the Fellow to travel.

Applications should be sent by February 10, 1976 to the College Secretary, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, including details of age, academic qualifications, a scheme of work proposed, and the names of not more than three referees.

CLIFFORD CURZON TICKET HOLDERS

It is with great regret that we have to announce the cancellation of CLIFFORD CURZON'S Piano recital scheduled for November 27.

Dr. Curzon has returned to Austria to be at the side of his wife who is seriously ill.

It is not possible to engage an artist of Clifford Curzon's calibre at such short notice and the recital is therefore cancelled.

If you will kindly return your tickets to the Box Office we will make a full refund upon receipt.

We apologise most sincerely for the inconvenience.

GARDNER CENTRE.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL MATCH

Three paraplegics who are members of the team representing Great Britain in the wheelchair Paralympics' in Canada next August, will take part in a wheelchair basketball match at the University Sportcentre on Saturday, December 6, from 6.00pm - 9.00pm.

The London Hawks will play a Sussex invitation team which is hoped will include some of the British basketball squad.

COUNSELLING SERVICES

The appointment of a counsellor, to augment facilities offered by the Counselling Services Area, came a step nearer at the meeting of Counselling Services Committee on November 12.

The Committee agreed to seek to appoint a counsellor by reallocation of a vacant faculty post in the Occupational Advisory Service, subject to the approval of the Planning Committee Group on Non-academic Faculty Vacancies.

Professor Ken Smith, Chairman, told members he was convinced that there existed a genuine belief within the Counselling Services Area and the student community that the University should consider seriously the appointment of a counsellor.

He was speaking at the first meeting of the Committee following his appointment as Chairman for one year from October 1975 in succession to Dr. Martin Black.

It is proposed that the counsellor would provide "non-aligned" personal counselling for students and would promote the provision of support and training for members of the University already in counselling roles.

The counsellor would be required to undertake individual and group counselling of students, to promote the provision of support groups, seminars and training for members of the University in counselling roles, and to work with tutors and other professional staff towards identifying practices leading to student difficulties.

The post would also carry responsibility for developing a centralised information and advice service for students and the supervision of the work of the half-time counsellor who is presently in post.

The appointee would be responsible to the Chairman of Counselling Services for the satisfactory performance of these duties.

The results of a recent survey of student opinion at the University, in which there was a 58 per cent return of questionnaires from 854 students, indicated that the majority of students believed that an independent counselling service was necessary (80 per cent), available through self-referral and located on the University campus.

EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED ENQUIRY

Written evidence has been submitted by the Counselling Services Project Team to the Government Committee of Enquiry into the Education of the Handicapped (the 'Warmcock' Committee), Counselling Services Committee was told at its meeting on November 12.
ADVICE ON ADMISSIONS

"PLEASE SR..... my mum says Physics are medicines that move the bowels and can I be excused?"

But seriously.....

The Admissions Committee is launching a new programme of advice on higher education for children and teachers in schools throughout the country. The Committee agreed at its last meeting that there is a need for a concerted programme of activity to "explain, elucidate and aid comprehension of the nature and purpose of the University and the courses which it offers".

The Admissions Office, Deans and School Selectors will continue to be particularly concerned with providing information about the University and with advising schools about courses and admissions procedures.

But now the Admissions Committee also wants to hear from individual members of faculty prepared to visit schools and give subject-based talks or willing to talk to school parties visiting the University.

Any level of participation would be welcomed but it is hoped that members of faculty would be willing to undertake about half-a-dozen visits per year to schools.

This review of the advisory service for schools has arisen from the fact that, with the University now fourteen years old, the impetus of the original schools liaison programme - in which a few members of faculty visited schools and invited headmasters to Sussex on a massive scale - has been lost.

In addition, there has been a change in the climate of university applications and shifts in the pattern of demand for university courses. Allied to all this is the degree of change in the schools themselves. Moves towards comprehensives, staff changes and new curricula have created new difficulties, not only for the University is reacting to these new elements, but also for school-teachers trying to advise their pupils on the most effective means of entry to higher education, on the most appropriate courses for them, and on the content and implications of those courses.

The dissemination of information and advice and the provision of a forum for discussion of curriculum development and methods of teaching are seen by the Admissions Committee as an essential role of the University. Currently, activity in this sphere takes place either through the Schools Consultancy section of the Admissions Office which organises conferences and visits for school children and their teachers who are interested in the University, or through the efforts of individual members of faculty or groups of faculty who are involved in the organisation of activities such as those provided for physics teachers in schools by the Physics Centre.

These activities will continue but the Admissions Committee felt that a greater input was desirable from individual members of faculty since it was only through them that the University could hope to satisfy the schools' need for detailed information on the nature and purpose of the courses available.

The Admissions Committee agreed that a list should be drawn up and circulated to schools, of those members of faculty willing to visit schools and give subject-based talks.

This service would also be advertised in the Annual Review for Schools which is distributed to all schools on the U.C.C.A. lists. The demand for these facilities is likely to come mainly from the South-East although it is possible that members of faculty, travelling to other parts of the country on other business could visit and advise schools there.

The Committee hopes that a wide cross-section of faculty can be represented, both to enable a full service to be provided and to minimise the individual load.

In considering this request it should be noted that the major input is likely to be during the summer when students in the Lower VI in schools are beginning to think about their choice of higher education.

The Admissions Office would be glad to hear from individuals who would be willing to help and, in its role as the co-ordinator of schools liaison activities, hopes that information on links with schools organised on an individual basis will be notified to the Schools Consultancy section.

Any member of faculty wishing to undertake this type of work, or who wishes to discuss the matter further is invited to contact the Admissions Officer (Mr. E. Nakhle, Sussex 303, 05-156), the Assistant Admissions Officer (Miss C. M. Broaday, Sussex 302, 05-154), or the Schools Consultant Assistant (Mrs. B. M. Gollop, Sussex 304, 05-152, Mon.-Wed. only).

The office will provide assistance and briefing on matters concerning general University admissions policy and national trends, together with information on courses other than the specialist topic.

The Office also maintains individual files on all schools and is collecting together some audio-visual material in the form of display-stands, slides etc., which will be made available to members of faculty visiting schools.

What is really needed, however, is an element of subject specialisation which can only be provided by members of the teaching faculty and which is assumed by the head-teacher who recently wrote of an applicant that "she obviously comes from a cultured background as both her parents are university teachers".

Ted Nakhle

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

There will be an organ recital by John Birch, the University organist, in the Meeting House at 1.15pm this Friday, November 28.

On Tuesday, December 2, Bea Veselacova will be giving a piano recital in the Gardner Centre at 1.15pm.

The Chamber Choir and Orchestra will be giving a concert in the Meeting House at 1.15pm on Friday, December 5.

The Strange Quartet continue their open rehearsal sessions from 12.45pm to 2.00pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until December 4, in the Group Music Practice Room in the Gardner Centre.

NOBEL LECTURE

Professor John Cornforth, Royal Society Research Professor in the School of Molecular Sciences, is to present the Lecture he will give at the Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm, at Sussex on Wednesday, December 3.

Professor Cornforth, who is joint winner of the 1975 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, will lecture on "Asymmetry and Enzyme Action" at 6.30pm on that day in the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.